TRAVELER'S BRIEFING

ZIMBABWE

(Republic of Zimbabwe)

© 1988-1999 Microsoft and/or its suppliers. All rights reserved.

BACKGROUND

Full Name: Republic of Zimbabwe

Capital: Harare

Population: 11,163,160 (est)

Type of government: Parliamentary Dem

Head of government: Executive Robert M

Official language(s) English, Shona, Sin

Economy: Beginning capitalist

Religions: Syncretic (50%) Christian (25%) indigenous (24%)

TRAVEL

Travel restrictions:The Gonarezhou National Park in southeast Zimbabwe remains closed to all visitors due to

International Airport: Harare

Flights from Frankfurt: Lufthansa, Air Zimbabwe

Other methods of arrival: Combination Ship and road/rail

U.S. Embassy address: 172 Herbert Chitefo Avenue in Harare Tel: 263-4-794-521 ext 207/211/212; FAX: 263-4-796-488.

Transportation: Public transportation: Poor.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Good.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Fair.

Availability of roadside assistance: Good. The main roads in Zimbabwe are generally well-maintained. Service stations are available along main roads. Extreme caution should be exercised if driving at night because of poorly lit roads, pedestrians and animals on roads, plus vehicles without

ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: For official travel, request Special Area, Country, and Theater clearances. For official travel, no-fee passports are required. Visas are easily obtained at airport. Visas are not required for personnel on TDY less than three months. All other travelers require passports and visas. Although a visa is not required to enter Zimbabwe, immigration authorities do require a firm itinerary for the proposed visit, sufficient funds, and a return ticket to the US. Onward tickets to non-US destinations will often not suffice and if the above requirements are not met authorities can order departure by next available flight. Identification cards, regular passport, immunization records and orders are required. Military personnel on leave should contact USDAO upon arrival and provide local address, phone number, and length of stay. $20 US departure tax will be paid at the airport Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is

Duty-free entry for used personal effects. Personnel are required to pay visa entry fees at the point of entry.

HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: Travelers to Zimbabwe are required to pay for all lodging with credit cards or internationally convertible currency such as US dollars or British pounds. Zimbabwe currency, even if obtained by exchanging foreign cash or travelers checks in Zimbabwe, may not be accepted for payment of hotel bills. Do not bring firearms without prior Amembassy approval. Register firearms after arrival. There are no written restrictions on photography, but use common sense. Authorities are extremely sensitive about photographing certain installations such as government offices, airports, official residences, and embassies. Ask police for permission to photograph such buildings before attempting to take pictures. Official travel to Zimbabwe on Sat/Sun/Zimbabwe and US holidays is discouraged. USDAO Harare is minimally staffed and often unable to support. Government of Zimbabwe is closed for business on weekends Amembassy operating hours are 0730L-1215L and 1300L-1700L Mon thru Thu and 0730L-1230L Fri.

MONEY

Currency restrictions: Currency transactions are strictly regulated. Tourists must declare to Zimbabwe customs the amount of currency and travelers checks they are carrying. Failure to fully declare can cause confiscation and a fine. There is no limit on currency imports. Zimbabwe currency is not redeemable outside of country; exchange at banks and hotels. Amembassy does not have currency exchange facilities. A limit of Z$40 is placed on export of local currency and the equivalent of other currencies unless the above special declaration is presented which proves currency was imported. Due to a large number of counterfeit bills in circulation, banks and hotels are not accepting $100 US bills. Visitors should carry US dollars travelers checks (preferred) or cash denominations of $50 US and below. Travelers to Zimbabwe are usually required to pay for all lodging with credit cards or internationally convertible currency such as U.S. Dollars or British Pounds.

HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, malaria, accidents, arthropod-borne diseases, schistosomiasis, STDs, and heat injuries (limited).

Availability of medical services: Good. Medical facilities are adequate, and some in Athens and Thessaloniki are quite good.

Medical Insurance: May not apply in Zimbabwe. Check with your policy advisor to see if you are covered or will be reimbursed.

Status of hospitals: Good.

Health Precautions: Malaria prophylaxis is recommended if traveling outside of Harare

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), typhoid, influenza, yellow fever, and TD. Yellow fever vaccination required of all travelers arriving from an infected area.

FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance: Required for all general officers traveling to Zimbabwe. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be coordinated through

Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer

Water and milk in main cities are safe. Travel in extreme eastern Zimbabwe should be undertaken with caution. Large volumes of refugees from Mozambique are transiting in this region. Some may be armed and dangerous. There have been several incidents involving long delays before local authorities notified Amembassy of the arrest or detention of Americans. There is no guarantee that Americans, detained for any reason by Zimbabwean police, will have timely access to American consular officials. Land mines along the Mozambique border make travel to that border area hazardous. U.S. citizens should avoid political rallies and street demonstrations. Travelers who suspect that their vehicles are being followed should drive to the nearest police

CRIME

Criminal Activities: Muggings, rape, purse snatching, car thefts, and credit card fraud are on the increase and as Americans and other foreigners are perceived as being wealthy, these groups are frequently being targeted. Thieves often operate in the vicinity of hotels, restaurants, shopping malls and tourist areas. It may be prudent to take the preventive measure of leaving all valuables such as passport, money, jewelry and credit cards in the hotel safe when not being used. Do not carry large sums of money or multiple credit cards while shopping. Make and carry a photocopy of the biographic page of the passport for purposes of identification. Thieves have stolen possessions from automobiles and public transport vehicles stopped in traffic

Zimbabwe is strict on:Firearms. Travelers are advised to make sure that all of the necessary documentation is in order before departing the United States. The weapons also must be cleared through U.S. Customs to ensure their expeditious re-entry. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in Zimbabwe are strict and convicted offenders can

WEATHER

http://cnn.com/WEATHER/html

Http://www.weatherunderground.com/

CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: Civilian clothing is required at all times for other personnel. Military personnel on leave may not wear uniforms. Lightweight clothing Sep thru Apr; mediumweight clothing, including jacket, May thru Aug.

This concludes the TRAVELLER'S BRIEFING for

ZIMBABWE